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Title : Problems being faced by artisans in the country.

SHRI TAPAS PAUL (KRISHNANAGAR): Thank you for giving me this chance to say something in this august House. यह प्रोब्लम सारे देश की प्रोब्लम है। India is a land of villages; it is for the villages that the glittering cities are thriving, but in this glitter, we tend to forget the people who help us to live. I would like to take this opportunity to draw the kind attention of the House to the enormous amount of artisans in all parts of India who are living a neglected life.

While working in rural areas of my constituency, I have witnessed and experienced that our motto of '*ma, mati, manush*' is aptly applicable to those artists and artisans – that is, *manush*, the people with their mother Earth *ma* and *mati*, to create wonderful pieces of art. But these artists lead a miserable life within the vicious circle of poverty, becoming puppets in the hands of the middlemen.

My vision which is influenced by our leader, Dr. Manmohan Singh, hon. Prime Minister is to uplift their condition. I propose to make particular places for them to display their handicrafts so that the buyers can go directly to them or to make archive for their art. I propose to develop micro, small and medium enterprises so that they can come together and keep their art living. I feel that the clay models of Krishnanagar should reach every part of the world. For this work, the Government has to allot land to make their archives and permanent fair grounds. I have met the President's prize winning artisans, leading a downtrodden life which should be put an end to.

I sincerely hope, under the able leadership of our leader, this vision of mine, actually be a reality and always make us aware of our roots.

I would like to request the hon. Minister of the Department of MSME to look into this issue on priority basis.

Madam, I just want to say that I was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information, Culture, Youth and Sports in the Assembly. At that time, I visited Kumartuli and Potopara, *i.e.*, South and North. They are facing the same problem. आपके माध्यम से मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस ओर प्रायोरिटी देकर ध्यान दें।